## FILED BY THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF

MARCIA STAMBERG, LCSW

Administrative Action

Licensed To Practice Social : Work In the State of New Jersey:

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of a complaint from J.G who alleged that Marcia Stamberg (hereinafter "respondent"), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (hereinafter "LCSW") violated the Social Workers' Licensing Act while providing therapy to J.G.'s minor son. Specifically, J.G. alleged that respondent provided therapy to his son without J.G.'s knowledge or permission; and therefore, in violation of a Court Custody Order which directs that major decisions, such as psychotherapy, be made by both

parents. J.G. further alleged that respondent engaged in a therapeutic relationship with his son despite the fact that his son had a primary therapist with whom he had a long, established relationship, and that respondent did not attempt to contact the therapist prior to providing therapy to his son. Last, J.G. alleged that when respondent did attempt to contact his son's therapist, she left a phone message which contained privileged information.

On December 20, 2000, respondent appeared with counsel James Wulach, Esq. for an investigative inquiry into the matter before the Board. Respondent testified that the first time she saw the son was on an emergency basis as allowed by the Court Custody Order. However, the Board did not find credible respondent's characterization of herself as a consultant to the son, rather than a therapist, for the four additional times she saw him. Further, respondent admitted that she never contacted J.G. directly to get his permission to see his son. Instead, she relied on the representations of the son and J.G.'s ex-wife that J.G. knew and approved of respondent providing therapy to the son.

Having reviewed the entire record, including the testimony of respondent, it appears to the Board that respondent engaged in professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) by failing to contact J.G. directly to get his permission regarding his son's

therapy and for engaging in therapy with J.G.'s son even though he had an established relationship with a primary therapist.

It appearing that respondent desires to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS WYDAY OF AUN 2001,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

- 1. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for having engaged in professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
- 2. Respondent shall pay the costs of the investigation of this matter in the amount of six hundred and ten dollars (\$610.00).
- 3. Respondent shall pay the above penalty and cost, totaling two thousand, one hundred and ten dollars (\$2,110) in four monthly installments with the first installment being in the amount of six hundred and ten dollars (\$610.00) and the remaining three installments being in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The first payment shall be due upon respondent's signing of the within Consent Order, and the three subsequent payments shall be due within thirty days of the last payment until the total amount is paid. All payments shall be by certified check or money order, payable to the State of New Jersey, and sent to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, P.O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101. If any payment is not timely, the full amount shall become immediately due and payable.

4. Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of continuing education concerning ethics, which hours shall be completed within one year of the entry of the within Order. Prior to taking the course/courses, respondent shall write to the Board for approval of the course/courses, and receive written approval by the Board. Respondent shall also be required to submit to the Board written proof of successful completion of the required course work. These hours shall be in addition to the twenty hours required for renewal of licensure.

Mariagnes Lattimer, MSW, LCSW

I have read the within Consent Order and understand its terms. I hereby consent to its entry and to be bound by the Consent Order's terms.

Marcia Stamberg, LCSW